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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/718,556	11/22/2000	Steven Jay King	Haworth Case 284A	2772

7590 10/22/2002

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, GERALD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/718,556

Applicant(s)

KING ET AL.

Examiner

JERRY A ANDERSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8 and 21-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8 and 21-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of Reference: Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsman: Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3, 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 9-20 have been canceled.

The second claim 5 has been canceled and the first claim 5 has been renumbered 6.

***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 1-4, 6-8 and 21-38 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement complies with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), listing of all patents, publications, or other information submitted. However, the date provided should be at least the month and year of publication in the form MM/YYYY. The day of the publication can be omitted.

Please note that a co-pending application is not a prior art document to be cited in the PTO-1449 but rather a citing to be including in the specification.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5, 6-8, 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The language of the claims must clearly distinguish the elements of the claims. Therefore the respective and said respective

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when referring to different elements of claim 1 must be clearly distinguished, "a power and communication receptacle" of claim 28 must be clearly distinguished from "one of a power receptacle" and "a communication receptacle". Terms which make the claims indefinite include: "the vicinity", "the respective" in claim 1, "same" in claim 4 and "therebetween" in claim 29. The Examiner suggests using - - near each of - - said side edges in claim 1; - - between said housing and said cover - - in claim 29. Claim 1 is misdescriptive because the screen does not close off access to the receptacle. It limits access to the space at the top between the screen and the console. Terms in the claims which lack proper antecedent basis include: "said receptacle" in claim 1 at the end. Claim 1 would be better worded if it stated in lines 19 and 20 that there is - - at least one receptacle selected from a group of power receptacles and communication receptacles - -. In claim 4 change "a component" to - - said component - -, see claim 3. Claim 8 is incomplete because the cabling cannot extend "into said console" unless there is an opening in said console and no opening has been defined. Actually the cables do not go into the console but connect to at least one receptacle which is accessed through the spacing between the screen and the console. Delete "sidewardly" in claim 28. In claim 24 make "a cross member" - - a second cross member - -; change "pair of worksurfaces" to - - first console to said second console - -. In claim 25 change "the corresponding" to - - a corresponding . Claim 29 is incomplete because two sidewalls are not sufficient to define a hollow interior but the housing may define a hollow interior and because a receptacle in the housing and near the sidewall is not accessible to cabling unless there is an opening in the sidewall.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

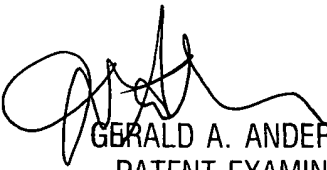
Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 21-38 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Anderson whose telephone number is 703 038 2202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703 308 24668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 3597 for regular communications and 703 306 4195 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 2197.

Jaa  
October 21, 2002

  
GERALD A. ANDERSON  
PATENT EXAMINER